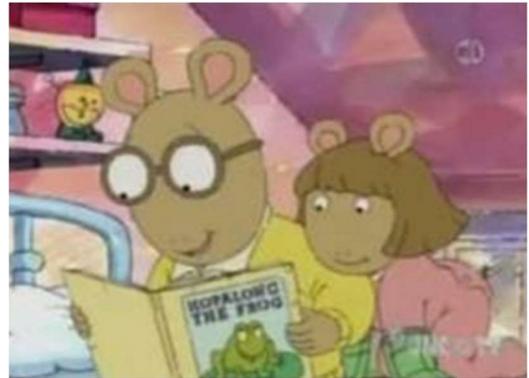


TIPS ON READING WITH CHILDREN

Here are some tips for helping children grow into lifelong readers.

Start reading with your children when they are infants.

Between the ages of one month and two years, children's language development is almost perfect. Children this age love hearing the sound of your voice and looking at illustrations. Books are a great way to introduce new vocabulary and concepts to your child.



Pick a regular time and place to read with your children.

Bedtime is great, but there may be other good times during the day. Reading is a great way to help your child calm down and focus. Having a regular reading schedule gives children something to look forward to, and it tells them that you value this special time together.

Let your children help select what you read together.

You always want to be introducing new books for them to love, but letting children choose sometimes will help them feel empowered by reading. It also helps them understand that they have choices about what they read.

Interact with your children when reading.

Don't get too carried away with your <<performance.>> It's more important that both you and your child have a chance to ask and answer questions about the story as you go along. This kind of exchange also gives you a sense of what your child is thinking and imagining as you read together.

Encourage older siblings to help.

Having the whole family read together can help foster strong relationships. Make sure everyone feels they have an important role to play in family reading sessions. Encourage older sibs to read aloud using different voices, or to act out parts of the story.

Take regular trips to the library.

Reading patterns are developed at an early age. If you show kids that they can go to the library and take out their own books, you will help them understand the value of this free resource.

Repeat favorite stories as often as your child wishes.

Many children love to hear the same story again and again. This is simply a stage of reading development. By hearing the same story repeated, children not only learn to memorize the story, but the words on the page. This process is how many children learn to read at home.